

Rescue From Blazing Freighter In Waters Infested By Sharks

DURBAN.—Passengers in the British liner City of York described here how they prayed as they watched the crew of the blazing freighter, Forresbank, of Glasgow, being rescued from shark infested waters off the Pondoland coast south of Durban.

After sighting the Forresbank through the fog, the first life-boat carrying Indian seamen from the Forresbank was seen moving through the heavy swell with about twenty sharks swimming near it.

Capt. T. Speakman manoeuvred the City of York to pick up the men from this boat, which had been in the water more than four hours.

A second life-boat which had drifted to the south sent up flares to attract the rescue ship. In this boat was Mrs. Simmonds (wife of the Master of the Forresbank, Capt. B. T. Simmonds) dressed in slacks and a jersey.

A third life-boat could be seen at the stern of the Forresbank, and three men were on deck at the after end of the blazing vessel.

Terrific Explosion

Several Forresbank officers taken aboard the City of York insisted on returning in a motor-boat to their ship to pick up their three stranded shipmates, and went to the assistance of a third lifeboat which was towed back to the City of York.

Capt. Simmonds, whose first command was the Forresbank, said that he went back with fifteen of his crew when he thought the fire had died down a bit.

"We split into two parties, one went aft and one forward.

"Then there was a terrific explosion from the engine room and flame and smoke belched from the decks," he said.

"I immediately ordered the men back to the life-boat but three of them had been trapped behind the flames and could not make it."

They were B. J. Massey, the senior apprentice, Senior Third Engineer R. Dockerty, and Engineer J. Wilson.

Flames Whipped The Ship

The men in the life-boat below, because of heavy seas and exhaustion, were unable to help the trio, who were left standing near the stern for more than an hour as flames whipped across the ship, and there was fear of another explosion.

Capt. Simmonds said the motor-boat from the rescue ship arrived as the blaze increased, and the stranded men were taken off with great difficulty.

At one stage they had thought of jumping for it, in the hope of reaching a life-boat, but a number of circling sharks were seen immediately below them.

PERSONAL FREEDOM

People Very Fortunate In Great Britain

—Fabians Told

HUDDERSFIELD. Fabian Society, at its monthly meeting, heard an address on "Personal Freedom" by Mr. J. Pickles, a barrister, a member of Brighouse Borough Council, prospective Labour candidate for Barkston Ash and himself a Fabian.

Mr. Pickles said that freedom was a much-abused word, invoked for many very different causes. Society necessarily involved a limitation on freedom.

The types of restriction on personal freedom Mr. Pickles classified under the three headings of legal, private (e.g., the restrictions placed by an employer on his employees) and the restrictions we placed on ourselves (e.g., our apprehensions as to what colleagues and friends might think regarding our actions in, say, not joining a strike).

BASIC FREEDOMS

After a brief historical review of the growth of State interference on behalf of personal freedom, Mr. Pickles indicated the various ways in which such intervention operated. But, he said, we were fortunate in Great Britain in that we could do and say things to an extent few other peoples could.

We still enjoyed the basic freedoms of personal liberty, free speech, a free Press (free in the sense that there was no need to register anything published), free association, and the right to choose those who were to govern us.

Mr. Pickles was highly critical of the continued censorship of stage plays by the Lord Chamberlain which he described as "quite intolerable."

He also drew attention to the Pasternak Nobel prize incident, and asked why the Soviet State should enter into a controversy regarding the content of "Dr. Zhivago."

THE PRICE OF LIBERTY

Always there existed, even in

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